Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

Vol. 9, Issue 4 April 2002

Upcoming Events at the Nabb Research Center

Spring

Saturday, April 27 – 1 p.m.
Maryland Archaeology Month Lecture

Dr. Elizabeth Ragan will present the lecture "Tales Untold: Where is Archaeology on the Lower Shore?" This presentation will address the neglected state of archaeology and archaeological research on the Lower Shore and what plans are underway to uncover new sites. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, May 16 - 2 p.m.
Pathways, Boundaries and Markers Display and Open House

A celebration of the history of mapmaking and surveying will be on display at the Nabb Research Center through Summer 2002. Highlights include an open house on May 16. SU Geography Professor M. E. Folkhoff will give a "quick and dirty" presentation on basic surveying techniques and the age-old metes and bounds surveying system.

September 20-21
Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors Seminar

Nabb Research Center and the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society will co-host the seminar "Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors." The Maryland Genealogical Society is sponsoring the seminar, which will be held at Salisbury University. Watch for more details in future newsletters or on our website at http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.

Wicomico Historical Society Donates Archival Collections to Nabb Research Center

Nabb Research Center Director Rebecca Miller with Wicomico Historical Society President Robert S. Withey

The Nabb Research Center recently increased its holdings by approximately 1,000 items through a generous donation made by the Wicomico County Historical Society. The historical society donated most of its archival collection to the Nabb Research Center in its effort to allow the public to have greater access to these important materials and to ensure that the documents and books will be preserved in an archivally sound environment. The acquisition of the Wicomico Historical Society collection is consistent with the Nabb Research Center's mission to facilitate scholarly research by collecting, preserving and providing access to records related to the history and heritage of the greater Chesapeake. The historical society can now focus more attention on their rich collection of artifacts and material culture items, which are on display at the Wicomico County Historical Society building at Pemberton Park in Salisbury.

Joshua Thomas Chapel Restoration Underway

Joshua Thomas, known to many local historians as the "Parson of the Islands," played a significant role in the spread of Methodism on the islands of the Chesapeake Bay and throughout the Eastern Shore. Thomas was a passionate minister whose sermons were famous throughout the Philadelphia Conference. The highlight of Thomas' career occurred during the War of 1812. When British troops occupied Tangier Island in 1814, the British Admiral in command of the troops summoned Thomas and asked him to hold a camp meeting for the British soldiers. The sermon was conducted on the Sunday before the troops attacked Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Thomas told his audience, "It was given me from the Almighty that they could not take Baltimore, and would not succeed in their expedition." Baltimore was not taken by the British and to this day stands as the only major Atlantic Coast city that has never been occupied by a foreign force.

Joshua Thomas' grave now lies in Deal Island adjacent to the beautiful chapel that bears his name. Efforts are underway to restore and repair the Joshua Thomas Chapel building and grounds. At noon on April 26th, the structure will be hydraulically lifted from its foundation to allow for needed repairs. All are invited to participate in this community event which will include food and other festivities. For further information, contact Bill Hipkiss at 410-784-2203 or visit the Web site www.geocities.com/dealislandnews.

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY

Nabb Research Center for Delmarva
History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

Allen Celebrates 300 Years of History: 1702-2002

There are not many towns in America that can claim three hundred years of history, but one special place on Delmarva is celebrating just such a special anniversary this year. Allen, MD, located six miles south of Salisbury, was established in 1702 along Passerdyke Creek, which at that time was large enough to accommodate sea-faring vessels. Many of the Eastern Shore's oldest families can trace their lineage to the Allen area, including the Dashiells, Bounds, Breretons (Brewingtons), Polks, and of course, Allens.

The village of Allen began to grow in the 1790s when the Adams brothers erected a mill on Passerdyke Pond. A dam was built for the mill, and the stage coach was rerouted to pass over the new dam. Allen grew throughout the nineteenth century supporting a saw mill, a grist mill, a cannery, a blacksmith shop and several general stores. The town was known as Upper Trappe in *The 1877 Atlases and Other Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.* J. & W. Allen were listed in the atlas as "Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries ... and all other Goods usually kept in a country store. Cheap for cash or Produce." The town was renamed in 1884 for Mr. Joseph Allen, the general store owner and postmaster of Upper Trappe, because there were several towns named Trappe on the Eastern Shore.

The Allen Historical Society together with the Allen Lions Club will host a number of events throughout the upcoming months to celebrate Allen's rich history. For a listing of events, please visit the Nabb Research Center's Web site at http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.

Sponsor-A-Book Program Continues

Nabb Research Center member, Carole Bozman, recently made a substantial donation to the Center's Sponsor a Book Program. Carole is pictured here with Center Director Rebecca Miller.

The Sponsor-A-Book Program is an ongoing project at the Nabb Research Center to raise needed funds for book rebinding. Many of the books in the Nabb Center's collections are in desperate need of repair, and a substantial portion of the tattered volumes are out of print. In an effort to keep these books accessible to the public, the books must be rebound. Patrons can support the rebinding initiative by donating $10 per book. Sponsors will have their name inserted in the rebound volume with a special nameplate. Anyone interested in contributing to this fund may contact Director Becky Miller or mail your check to the Center made payable to the SU Foundation and marked "Sponsor-A-Book." The staff of the Nabb Research Center wishes to sincerely thank all who have so generously contributed to the rebinding initiative, including, Mrs. Mary Hoff, Elizabeth Schulz, Charlotte T. Couzantino, Allen & Betty Johannes, Dr. Maurice W. & Mrs. Carole K. Bozman and John Hopkins.